The One Hundred and First Annual Report

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

MASSACHUSETTS

For the Year 1953

Reynolds Printing, Inc.
New Bedford, Mass.

Officers and Staff of the Free Public Library

Trustees

HON. EDWARD C. PEIRCE	Mayor of the City
HON. FRANCIS J. LAWLER	Acting Mayor of the City

Elected by the City Council

CAROLYN B. MANNING	Term expires April 1954
RT. REV. MSGR. JOHN F. McKEON	Term expires April 1954
MARY E. RYAN	Term expires April 1955
RICHARD F. BAILEY	Term expires April 1955
ROBERTA S. BARNET	Term expires April 1956
CHARLES S. KELLEY, JR.	Term expires April 1956

STAFF

Librarian

LAURENCE G. HILL

Assistant Librarian

CLAIRE N. RILEY

Heads of Departments

MARION H. BONNER	Reference Librarian
STELLA M. FERGUSON	Art Librarian
CHARLOTTE S. NYE	Supervisor of Children, Schools and Young People
CELESTINE M. POWERS	Supervisor of Technical Processes

Assistants

CATHERINE A. BELL
YVETTE BOISCLAIR
SHIRLEY B. COHEN
EVALINA CONSTANTINE
MARGUERITE A. DALEY
RACHEL H. DEMERS
EVA M. DONNELLY
MARGARET FANNING
GERTRUDE GOLDSTEIN
*DORIS M. KELSEY
THELMA H. PAINE
DEOLINDA PERRY
LORETTA E. PHANEUF
IRENE ROCHELEAU
FRANCES E. SANDERSON
*OLIVE S. SANDFORD
JEANIE D. SHIELDS
JOHANNA WALSH

Branches

North Branch — AMANDA L. DION, SALLY VICTORIA

South Branch — CEZALTINA MENDOZA, MARY E. PHANEUF

West Branch — LUCY ANN SHERMAN, ELIZABETH V. SWIFT

Building Maintenance Staff

ROSE ALVES
NANCY EATON
ADRIEN LANDRY
ALICE MARSH
WILLIAM MARSH
HILDA MONIZ
GARRISON OLIVER
LEONARD ROSE
GABRIEL SOUZA

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* Resigned

Trustees' Report

To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of New Bedford, Mass.

The Trustees present their One Hundred and First Annual Report to the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

LAURENCE G. HILL,

Clerk of the Board

Board of Trustees
New Bedford Free Public Library
Annual Report 1953

On March 3, 1953 the Free Public Library celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the opening of its doors to the public. One of the oldest tax supported public libraries in the United States, the Free Public Library planned its celebration under the direction of the Centennial Committee. Members of this Committee were Mayor Edward C. Peirce, Honorary Chairman, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. McKeon, Miss Mary E. Ryan, Mr. Richard F. Bailey, Mrs. Roberta S. Barnet, Mrs. Carolyn B. Manning, Dr. Joseph Goulart, Library Trustees; Mr. Laurence G. Hill, Librarian, and the following members at large: Mr. W. Kenneth Burke, Mr. James E. Gleason, Miss Harriet Hall, Mr. Ulysse Auger, Mr. William H. Tripp, Mr. Hyman Mohel, Mr. William R. Freitas, Mr. John Ackerman, Mrs. Basil Brewer, Mr. Harold Clasky, Mrs. William Jenney and Mr. Philip Barnet.

Members of the Library Employees Centennial Committee who co-ordinated much of the detail work of the Celebration were Miss Claire N. Riley, Miss Evalina Constantine, Mrs. Celestine M. Powers, Miss Charlotte S. Nye, Miss Marion H. Bonner, Miss Stella M. Ferguson, Mrs. Frances E. Sanderson, Miss Louise R. Tatro, Mr. Garrison L. Oliver, Miss Cezaltina Mendoza, Miss Lucy Ann Sherman, Miss Amanda L. Dion and Mr. Laurence G. Hill, Chairman.

The celebration began at 11.00 A.M. March 3, 1953 with public ceremonies featuring a symbolic re-enactment of the borrowing of the first book. Mr. William H. Tripp, Curator of the Jonathan Bourne Whaling Museum, representing Robert Ingraham, the first Librarian, and Miss Marguerite A. Daley of the Library Staff, representing the first patron, performed

the ceremony in costumes of the middle nineteenth century. Other features of the morning ceremonies were an address by Mayor Edward C. Peirce and the lighting of candles on a huge birthday cake by former Assistant Librarian Clement L. Yaeger. The New Bedford High School Band provided music for the occasion. The Trustees and Library Staff were hosts at a tea to more than two hundred invited guests in the Library Hall from three to five in the afternoon of the Centennial day. Many former employees and friends of the Library attended as well as visiting librarians and city officials.

The events of the day were climaxed by the appearance of John Mason Brown, noted lecturer and literary critic, who addressed a large and enthusiastic audience in the Cook School auditorium in the evening. Mr. Brown's topic, "Seeing Things," was a scintillating and witty review of the arts, literature and drama of the past year.

Various special exhibits and events emphasizing the Centennial were held during the rest of the year.

RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Tangible results of the Library's increased financial resources became apparent during 1953. A total of $13,518.41 was spent from income of the Wilks Fund on new equipment and renovations of the Library building.

The major project was the renovation of the Children's Room. Formerly a dingy room with dark forbidding woodwork, it is now a cheerful, brightly colored and pleasant gathering place for children of all ages. The transformation was brought about by repainting the walls, refinishing the woodwork to a light tone, laying a checkered green and cream rubber tile floor and last but most important a completely new set of furniture in blonde finish. The total cost was $7,226.04. An increase of 13,180 in book circulation over the past year indicates the popularity of the new room.

The long time problem of space and efficiency in processing books from their arrival from the suppliers to their place on

the public shelves was solved by taking over the former Newspaper Room. With the installation of new shelving and office equipment, at a cost of $1,772.00, it was possible to put all book preparation processes on a production line basis with the result nearly 2,000 more books were processed than in 1952 with no increase in personnel.

The installation of ornamental bronze stair railings on entrance stairways and on the stairway leading to the Business and Technical and Genealogy Rooms has added greatly to the safety of persons using the Library. These railings, carefully designed for beauty as well at utility, were installed at a cost of $1,200.00.

In addition to these major physical improvements, $2,825.87 was spent for the purchase of new equipment and furniture to replace worn and obsolete items. Nearly half of this amount was allocated to modern filing cabinets to house the Library's excellent circulating picture collection. The exterior wooden trim of the building received a long needed two coats of paint at a cost of $494.50.

All of these improvements were paid for from income from the Wilks bequest at no cost to the taxpayer. While a start has been made on renovating the Library building much remains to be done. Plans for complete relighting of the building and subsequent redecoration are currently under consideration. During the next few years it is hoped that improvements and repairs will be made which will combine modern efficiency of service without impairing the classic beauty of the building.

PUBLIC SERVICES

The increase in funds for books and other materials is reflected in the rise in total book circulation of 20,294 over 1952. Not so evident in the statistics is the use of business and law services available in the Business and Technical Room and in the Reference Room. Many lawyers, business men and others take advantage of the up-to-date information available on income and inheritance taxes as well as on legal, governmental and financial matters.

The Art Room continues to provide the latest materials in many fields including home design and decoration, photography, painting and other fine arts. The circulation of phonograph records increased from 2,435 in 1952 to 2,517 in 1953. The problem of space for the record collection as well as for books has reached serious proportions. Redesigning and rearrangement of present shelving together with additional new shelving would do much to alleviate the present crowded conditions.

Our Genealogy and Local History Department has continued to serve not only residents of New Bedford and surrounding towns but visitors from as far away as Hawaii and many points in between. Three New England genealogies at a cost of $37.95 were added to the book collection from a fund of $500.00 bequeathed to the Library by a former Assistant Librarian Mr. William L. R. Gifford. The microfilm file of New Bedford newspapers is used continually by many readers. A new microfilm reader to supplement the one we have would be a desirable investment.

The Reference Department under Miss Marion H. Bonner answered over 11,000 reference questions in 1953. Many of these questions involved considerable research and ingenuity to produce the desired information.

All of the branch libraries show net gains in circulation over 1952 totals. South and West Branch show gain of 2,532 and 2,004 respectively. North Branch gain in circulation was 838. The problems of the branch libraries and library extension service in general need much thought and careful planning. Neither West or North Branches are adequate to fill the needs of the areas they are intended to serve. The West Branch is not large enough to serve the growing population in the west and north west section of the city and the North Branch at Weld Street is actually serving only a small portion of the rapidly expanding north end of New Bedford.

The Bookmobile, a traveling branch library, now on order and which will begin service in 1954, will provide library service to many areas now without neighborhood library service of any kind. However, serious consideration to a building

program for new North and West Branch Libraries should be high on the agenda if and when money for such a purpose becomes available.

The financial status of the Library in respect to endowment is enviable. There are ample funds for the provision of books and many other services from the income of the Wilks bequest and other endowment funds. When the powers and obligations of the Trustees in respect to the Wilks bequest are clarified by court decision it will be possible to plan and execute a definite program for the expansion of library service to the citizens of New Bedford so as to supply the educational resources and materials so necessary to the promotion of a democratic way of life.

This year 72 public and parochial school classes have visited the Library, 35 more than in 1952. Miss Nye, Supervisor of Childrens Services, gave guided tours of the Library to 1,145 pupils in the fourth and sixth grades. In addition to the school groups many young people from YWCA and other clubs were shown the resources of the Library by Miss Nye and Miss Riley, Assistant Librarian.

The Librarian, Miss Riley, Miss Nye and Miss Cohen gave 41 book reviews or talks on the Library with Miss Riley contributing 23 talks to the total.

The weekly radio program at 9:00 to 9:30 A. M. on Tuesdays over WBSM with Harriet Hall and the Librarian continues to bring new people into the Library and serves to advertise current exhibits and special events as well as new books available at the Library.

The Standard-Times gave excellent coverage to the Centennial and all through the year has been very cooperative with feature articles and news coverage of Library activities.

Five staff members belong to the Massachusetts Library Association and three have been active on committees of the Association. Mrs. Barnet is southeastern representative of the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta S. Barnet

Charles S. Kelley, Jr.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. McKeon

Carolyn B. Manning

Mary E. Ryan

Richard F. Bailey

STATISTICS IN FORM RECOMMENDED BY THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Annual Report for year ending December 31, 1953.

Name of Library—New Bedford Free Public Library.
City—New Bedford. State—Massachusetts.
Name of Librarian—Laurence G. Hill.
Date of Founding—1852.
Population served—109,189 (U. S. Census 1950).
What government unit served—City.
Terms of use—
Free lending.
Free for reference.
Total number of agencies—237
Central Library, 3 Branches, 233 school deposits and classroom libraries.

Number of days open during the year	351
Hours open each week for lending	72
Hours open each week for reading	79
Hours of service per week required of staff	35
Number of Sundays open during the year	42
Hours open each Sunday (reading and reference)	7

BOOK STOCK

Number of volumes at beginning of year	244,290
Number of volumes added during year	10,086
Number of volumes withdrawn during year	2,447
Total number of volumes at end of year	251,929
Number of newspapers currently received	32
Number of periodicals currently received	330
Number of music records added	136
Total number of music records	715

CIRCULATION AND USE

Number of volumes of adult non-fiction lent for home use	64,196
Number of volumes of adult fiction lent for home use	117,398
Number of books for children lent for home use	194,660
Total number of volumes lent for home use	376,254
Total number of music records lent for home use	2,517

REGISTRATION

Total number of registered card-holders	17,423

Length of registration period is 3 years.

KEMPTON FUND

Balance	$1,871.33	
Receipts	11,552.92	
		$13,424.25
Books and Periodicals	11,151.38	
All Other	34.32	
Phonograph Records	36.40	
Stationery and Supplies	103.37	
Microfilming	21.90	
Printing	98.00	
Express	32.50	
Heat	33.29	
Light	50.62	
	11,561.78	
Balance	1,862.47	
		$13,424.25

SYLVIA ANN HOWLAND FUND

Balance	$354.44	
Receipts	1,484.06	
		$1,838.50
Books and Periodicals	1,466.79	
	1,466.79	
Balance	371.71	
		$1,838.50

CHARLES W. MORGAN FUND

Balance	$46.10	
Receipts	26.25	
		$72.35
Books and Periodicals	19.50	
	19.50	
Balance	52.85	
		$72.35

ELIZABETH B. MACKIE FUND

Balance	$36.52	
Receipts	26.25	
		$62.77
Balance		$62.77

CHARLES L. WOOD FUND

Balance	$76.28	
Receipts	52.50	
		$128.78
Balance		$128.78

FLORENCE L. WAITE FUND

Balance	$2.98	
Receipts	1,052.89	
		$1,055.87
Balance		$1,055.87

GEORGE O. CROCKER FUND

Balance	$120.93	
Receipts	288.04	
		$408.97
Phonograph Records	93.21	
	93.21	
Balance	315.76	
		$408.97

OLIVER CROCKER FUND

Balance	$39.91	
Receipts	26.25	
		$66.16
Balance		$66.16

GEORGE HOWLAND, JR., FUND

Balance	$53.88	
Receipts	42.00	
		$95.88
Books and Periodicals	15.00	
	15.00	
Balance	80.88	
		$95.88

JAMES B. CONGDON FUND

Balance	$32.60	
Receipts	13.13	
		$45.73
Balance		$45.73

PATTY WILCOX FUND

Balance	$349.12	
Receipts	131.25	
		$480.37
Books and Periodicals	31.78	
	31.78	
Balance	448.59	
		$480.37

DUPLICATE PAY

Balance	$423.75	
Receipts	37.41	
		$461.16
Books and Periodicals	16.69	
	16.69	
Balance	444.47	
		$461.16

WILLIAM L. R. GIFFORD FUND

Balance	$362.93	
Receipts	.00	
		$362.93
Books and Periodicals	36.45	
	36.45	
Balance	326.48	
		$362.93

FREDERICK SLOCUM ALLEN FUND

Balance	$22.71	
Receipts	26.25	
		$48.96
Balance		$48.96

HENRY H. CRAPO FUND

Balance	$124.76	
Receipts	.00	
		$124.76
Microfilming	89.81	
	89.81	
Balance	34.95	
		$124.76

DEBORAH B. TRIPP FUND

Balance — Dec. 15, 1952	$323.14	
Receipts	585.80	
		$908.94
Books and Periodicals	515.00	
Trustees Commission (Merchants National Bank)	27.72	
Safe Deposit Box	6.00	
	548.72	
Balance — Dec. 15, 1953	360.22	
		$908.94

WILKS FUND

Principal		$1,200,000.00
Securities		
U. S. Treasury Bills		$1,200,000.00
Income		
Balance	$41,667.02	
Receipts	21,274.78	

Expenditures:		
Building Maintenance	3,937.39	
Books and Periodicals	13,645.89	
New Equipment	12,675.90	
Binding	449.90	
Stationery and Supplies	597.13	
Janitors Supplies	291.83	
Travel and Transportation	158.69	
Microfilming	269.54	
Printing	68.40	
Express	96.38	
Treasurer's Salary	499.98	
Insurance	62.50	
Centennial	1,385.50	
All Other	75.41	
	34,214.44	
Balance		$28,727.36

TRUST FUNDS

Unexpended Balance December 31, 1952		$45,908.40
Income Received 1953		36,619.78
Total		$82,528.18
Expended: 1953		
Books and Periodicals	$26,222.40	
Phonograph Records	805.69	
Stationery and Supplies	700.50	
Microfilming	381.25	
Printing	166.40	
Express	128.88	
Heat	33.29	
Light	50.62	
Building Maintenance	3,937.39	
New Equipment	12,675.90	
Binding	449.90	
Janitors Supplies	291.83	
Travel and Transportation	158.69	

Insurance	62.50	
Centennial	1,385.50	
Trustees Commissions (Tripp Fund)	27.72	
Safe Deposit Box (Tripp Fund)	6.00	
Treasurer's Salary (Wilks Fund)	499.98	
All Other	109.73	
	$48,094.17	
Balance December 31, 1953		$34,434.01

CITY APPROPRIATION 1953

Salaries and Wages, Appropriation		$113,688.84
Salaries and Wages, Expended	$113,686.64	
General Expenses Appropriation		$11,175.00
Expended:		
Building Maintenance	$307.46	
Insurance	351.20	
Janitors Supplies	1,412.87	
Binding	2,053.16	
Printing	48.05	
Express	640.86	
Postage	452.00	
Telephone	936.74	
Light	385.59	
Heat	352.80	
Water	87.01	
Stationery and Supplies	2,877.89	
Travel and Transportation	286.05	
Rent	720.00	
Petty Cash	24.66	
All Other	224.06	
	11,160.40	
Total City Appropriation		$124,863.84
Totals Expended		124,847.04
Balance — Returned to City Treasurer		$16.80

FINANCE

RECEIPTS	
City Appropriation	$124,863.84
Income from Trust Funds (Incl. bal, from 1952)	82,067.02
Rental Collection	461.16
	$207,392.02

EXPENDITURES OPERATING EXPENSES	
Salaries: Library Staff	$74,722.48
Wages: Building Staff	38,964.16
Books and Periodicals	26,898.48
Rebinding	2,503.06
Heat, light, water	909.31
Insurance	413.70
New Equipment	12,675.90
Rent	720.00
Other Operating Expenses	15,134.12
Grand Total	$172,941.21
Balance on hand at end of fiscal year	34,450.81
$16.80 of this balance reverted to the City	
Actual balance	$34,434.01

Note: City supplies heat and light at Main Library and heat at one branch. City Building Department does all Library repairs. Figures for these items not included in Receipts or Expenditures.

ANNUAL REPORT

Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library, for the year 1953.

IN CITY COUNCIL,

May 27, 1954

Received, placed on file and ordered printed in the City Documents.

CHARLES W. DEASY,
City Clerk

Attest:

CHARLES W. DEASY,
City Clerk